8.0 NOAA LEVEL 1B DATABASE

This section describes the NOAA-KLM Polar Orbiter Level 1b database that is archived by NOAA and the formats in which NOAA distributes raw data to users.

NOAA Level 1b (following FGGE terminology) is raw data that have been quality controlled, assembled into discrete data sets, and to which Earth location and calibration information have been appended (but not applied). Please note that NASA and EUMETSAT use a different definition for Level 1b, so the following information may not apply to Level 1b data sets produced by other organizations.

The data are assembled in the database as a collection of data sets and made available from the archive within twenty-four hours after receipt. Each data set contains data of one type for a discrete time period. Thus, there are separate data sets for HRPT, LAC, GAC, HIRS/3, AMSU-A, AMSU-B, and SEM-2 data (SBUV/2 data sets do not meet the NOAA Level 1b definition, and are described under Section 9.7, NESDIS Operational Products). Time periods are arbitrary subsets of orbits, and may cross orbits (i.e., may contain data along a portion of an orbital track that includes the ascending node, the reference point for counting orbits). Generally, GAC, HIRS/3, AMSU-A, and AMSU-B data sets will be available for corresponding time periods and usually have a three to five minute overlap between consecutive data sets.